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LB 171

understand the situation that many times this is good for the citizenry, and we accepted that, but many times we had to figure out our own way to pay for them. The same thing comes, I think, here. The industry has been advised that they have to upgrade their equipment and somebody is going to have to pay for it. It's difficult for me to feel like that we, as taxpayers, should pick up this cost. And, I guess, more importantly the thing that really concerns me, as has been expressed by Senator Wickersham, we'll set a precedent where there will be an entourage of people coming into the Legislature saying, well, we were told we have to do this, so you should pay for it. And, I guess, this starts the ball rolling, and the question is, where is it going to stop? We look at the...at the bottom line, as Senator Wickersham has done, and we see that we are already over the limit as far as our expenditures, and somewhere we're going to have to take things out. And this appears to me one of those places that we ought to address very carefully. And, even though we have sympathy for what is being required of the industry, I don't think that this is something that we ought to absorb into the taxpayer...out of the taxpayer's pocket. So with that, even as much as I respect the Speaker, I'm going to have to vote against LB 171. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers, your light is on for the tenth time, but only the third time to speak. (Laughter)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. And I do appreciate those who replaced the little bulb that had blown out in my button, the button on the table that is. Members of the Legislature, I have to finish what I started. Since I have five minutes, I can proceed with a little more deliberation. I have said repeatedly that I am the one who is in public office; my life in public is public, not my family. My family is not open to discussion from me. So when a politician is going to call a press conference to exploit a family situation, I think it is reprehensible, I think it is contemptible, it is inexcusable, and the reason I'm doing it, because it's the top dog in the state who did it. There are things that the public had no right to know. The Governor said, and he's a great actor, he called a press conference because the young man's misfortune was transacted in public. I didn't know what had happened in all